TL 1261

SIR

Secretariado Internacional da Resistencia Timorense
International Secretariat of Timorese Resistance
Secretariat International de la Resistance Timoraise

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Pat: I know the idea of an Int'l Conference is in a very different stage now. However, I'll be in touch. We had a good victory here. Jose

From: Jose Ramos-Horta
To: All
Date: 30.8.90

Subject: U.N. Sub-Commission on Racial Discrimination and Minorities

Sending Res. L41 on East Timor. This version has been ammended just before the vote but the substance remains the same.

The vote which took place last night in Geneva was by secret ballot and the result was as follows: 14 yes, 1 abstention, 9 no. Though the ballot was secret, my reading is that the voting was distributed as follows:

Yes: Argentina, Brazil, Algeria, France, Holland, Mexico, Colombia, U.K., Japan, Greece, Romania, Greece, Senegal, Cuba.
No: Jordania, Nigeria, Somalia, Egypt, China, Morocco, Philippines, USA, Ethiopia.
Abs.: India.
Non-participating: USSR, Yugoslavia, the latter being the Chairman.

As you are aware, while I am certain about the yes votes and the nos, it is a bit more difficult to guess who actually abstained and who did not participate in the vote apart from Yugiskavia.

I mentioned the names of the countries and not the experts for easier identification although the experts are there as "independent" and not representing their respective countries.

The U.S. expert, Judge Treat was extremely negative and outright dishonest. He dismissed completely the reports on human rights violations and praised the Indonesians for the incredible improvements. What a jerk! He was under extreme pressure and might even have received some present from the Indonesians. The Somali expert was a poor devil who had told me before that he was not independent. He tried to bloc action on the draft. Joinet was the master of the battle and did a superb job. Surprise was the Algerian expert, Ksentini, who intervened at one point just before the vote to rebut her colleagues from the South. Later, with tears in her yes, she told Marta Maura (Portugal): "it was him who convinced me" pointing to me. Just before the vote, I reminded her that this is a fight not between East and West, North and South, Haves and Have Nots. We are the poor in Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables".
The Indonesians were stunned. Now we have to immediately prepare for the Commission in Feb/Mar 91. Yours, Jose

UNITED NATIONS

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-second session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Draft resolution submitted by Ms. Daes, Mr. Joinet and Mr. Merills

Situation in East Timor

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the universally accepted rules of international humanitarian law,

Noting the changing international situation which is conducive to dialogue and negotiations as the most adequate means of resolving local, national and interstate disputes,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/30 of 23 November 1982 and the unanimous Security Council resolution 384 of 22 December 1975 and 389 of 22 April 1976,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/20 of 8 September 1982, 1983/26 of 6 September 1983, 1984/24 of 29 August 1984, 1987/13 of 2 September 1987 and 1989/7 of 31 August 1989 concerning the situation in East Timor,

Considering that according to reliable allegations, the people of East Timor continue to be subjected to gross violations of human rights,

Regretting the restrictions imposed by local military authorities upon the activities of specialized non-governmental organizations,

1. Welcomes and encourages the exercise by the Secretary-General of his good offices as mandated by General Assembly resolution 37/30 of 23 November 1982 with a view to exploring the avenues for finding a comprehensive solution to the problem of East Timor;

2. Requests the Indonesian authorities to facilitate the access to the territory of international humanitarian and development organizations;

3. Appeals to all sides to exercise restraint and, guided by the spirit of dialogue and negotiations, to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the exercise of his good-offices with a view to finding a durable settlement of the conflict;

4. Recommends to the Commission that it consider, at its forty-seventh session, the situation pertaining to human rights and fundamental freedoms in East Timor and to this purpose asks the Secretariat to transmit to the Commission all the reliable information received.

Protesters show flag at Mass

SMH 7/9/90

JAKARTA, Thursday: Protesters have used a Mass attended by thousands of worshippers to stage a pro-independence demonstration in Dili, the capital of Indonesian-controlled East Timor, diplomatic and other sources said.

The demonstration is believed to be the largest of its kind since January and was similar to the one staged during Pope John Paul's visit to the former Portuguese colony last October.

The protest, involving "a couple of hundred" demonstrators, took place on Tuesday night at the end of a Mass, attended by between 20,000 and 50,000, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Dili Diocese of the Catholic Church, a Western diplomat said.

EAST TIMOR

There are more than 600,000 East Timorese, who are mostly Catholics.

Displaying flags and banners calling for independence, the protesters shouted slogans in support of Fretilin guerillas, who have resisted Indonesian control of the territory invaded by Jakarta 15 years ago.

The reports said the protesters were dispersed by Indonesian security forces but there was no violence. However, a small number were subsequently arrested, the diplomat said.

The demonstration was witnessed by the Provincial Governor, Mr Mario Carrascalao, Bishop Carlos Belo, the Vatican Ambassador to Jakarta, Monsignor Francesco Canalini, and civil and military officials.

Bishop Belo, who in the past has criticised the behaviour of the security forces and called for a referendum on East Timor's future, admonished the protesters, saying he was "ashamed of this kind of attitude".

According to one account, he said he could not guarantee people's security if they continued protesting and warned the "cause could be lost".

The demonstration fits a pattern by independence supporters, who have used visits by prominent figures to draw attention to their cause.

Australian Associated Press

Timor's young join revolt

AGE 20/9/90

By JILL JOLLIFFE, Lisbon, Wednesday

Refugees arriving in Portugal from East Timor claim that Indonesian authorities are continuing to torture prisoners in the territory. They also say that a revolt by young people is gaining strength in the capital, Dili, where the situation is politically volatile.

The refugees said the latest demonstration was on 4 September when thousands demonstrated in silence during the visit of the Papal Nuncio from Jakarta. Some students threw stones and chanted pro-independence slogans.

A Roman Catholic Church source in Dili said that three students were arrested several days later.

A spokesman for Amnesty International said in London that on the basis of previous experience, there was reason for concern and the allegations would be investigated.

It is feared that the detained students will share the fate of those arrested in demonstrations in October, during the visit of Pope John Paul, and in January, during the visit of the United States ambassador to Jakarta, Mr John Monjo.

One of the youths arrested during the papal demonstration told of how he and five others were tortured at the headquarters of the then regional commander of East Timor, Brigadier-General Muliady.

Another youth who participated in the January demonstration also told of torture.

A 21-year-old man involved in the papal demonstration said he had been questioned for two weeks during which he and his schoolmates were beaten, immersed in water containing excrement, cut and burned with cigarettes. He showed scars to support his claims.

In late November, he was given electric shocks. He said five other students received the same treatment, but each was taken into the "torture chamber" furnished with electrical equipment separately. They were in prison until a few days after ambassador Monjo's visit to Dili.

The youth revolt is a relatively new element in the Timor story. Until last year, opposition to Indonesian rule was conducted by the founding generation of Fretilin in a mountain guerilla war led by Jose Gusmao Xanana.

Both the young men interviewed barely remember the 1975 invasion of Timor and are hazy about Fretilin's history, although they take Mr Xanana as their inspiration.

Meanwhile, negotiations are continuing between Indonesian and Portuguese diplomats over a proposed visit by a Portuguese parliamentary delegation, which has been postponed from October to sometime next year. The Portuguese Prime Minister, Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, says international law has been violated both in East Timor and Kuwait.